

**Bank of North Dakota Building
Public Input Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2005
Bismarck Public Library, Conference Room A
5:30 p.m.**

Eric Hardmeyer, President of BND

- Although not a required meeting, BND wanted to allow public input.
- Background
- Considerations:
 - Economics
 - Accessibility
 - Place of Prominence
 - Good, Safe and Secure Environment for our customers and employees.
- Timeframes: Hope to have site selection this fall (September or October). Hired REH Architects. Design, development with building starting in spring/summer of 2006. Tentatively scheduled to move in summer of 2007.
- Final decision to be made by the Industrial Commission, made up of Governor John Hoeven, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.
- People unable to attend the meeting could submit comments to bnd@state.nd.us or mail comments to the Bank through Sept. 3, 2005.

Panel

Tim Atkinson, Senior Vice President, Internal Services

- Moderator
- Introduced courtesy guidelines

Dale Eberle – SVP of Banking Operations

Bill Ellig – REH Architects

John Warford, Mayor of Bismarck

- BND has been in Bismarck for 86 years.
- Bismarck is the state capitol and core governmental activities should be based in North Dakota's capitol.
- If government agencies are scattered throughout the state, then governmental business becomes fragmented, inconvenient and less effective for citizens.
- BND is an established business in Bismarck.
- Stability of downtown is just as important and the impact would be devastating to restaurants, retailers and other entities.

Tim Helbling, Mandan City Commission

- If we truly are one community, here's the perfect way to show the city of Mandan and its people that our leaders of the state do support Mandan, and are working hard to get our fair share of what's happening. When the state looks to expanding, Mandan/Bismarck should be treated as one community.
- Mandan has a lot to offer this project. The area west of Memorial Bridge, on 46th Avenue SE is a pretty site for Bank of North Dakota. Mandan has worked real hard

- to improve the infrastructure in this area. From I-94, there is a very short drive to all three bridges that connect our communities.
- With improved technology, the need to physically walk into a bank to do business is becoming more of a thing of the past, making the need to locate in the downtown business center not as important as it once was.
- This could be catalyst that helps Mandan jump-start its entire community.
- Bismarck has so many things happening now that building the Bank in Mandan would hardly be a bleep on their radar screen.
- Hospital(s) location would give Bismarck the opportunity for expansion in that area if the current BND site were purchased by those entities
- We need Bismarck, Bismarck needs us.
- The Mandan City Commission is willing to work closely with BND and to assist developers in any Mandan location and be able to make it happen for the good of all.

Chuck Huber, Bismarck Downtown Association

- Many businesses and retailers in the downtown area count on BND employees and the traffic flow that has been there for a number of years.
- Relocating BND would create some economic problems.
- Viable reasons to stay in downtown Bismarck
 - With the revitalization period and renaissance zone projects taking place in Bismarck, changing a foundation corner like the Bank of North Dakota would set the process back.
 - Downtown Bismarck has developed into a financial hub and BND is a direct connection to that.
 - Bismarck is a close proximity to state agencies and to the legislative center of our state. Taking the economic impact out of the Bismarck community and taking it somewhere else does not gain anything for the state. That is not efficient government and does not have a net gain for the state of North Dakota.
 - On behalf of the 135 members of our association, we respectfully petition you to remain in downtown and are willing to extend a helping hand in anyway we can to assist in that venture.

Eddy Mitzel, Mitzel Home Builders

- Lake Development in Mandan has 6.77 acres. The site is flat, level, and above the flood plain. The infrastructure is in place.
- Great access to anywhere in Bismarck and Mandan within 7 to 10 minutes.
- Over 1000 acres available for further development.

Tom Freidt, Mandan

- Sunset Commercial Park (north of the interstate at Sunset exit, next to the new USDA building)
- Riverwood Commercial Park (west end of the strip)
 - Easy access from Bismarck, Mandan, and southern communities in North Dakota
- WestBay Estates (north of the Water park)

Laurie Leingang, Mandan

- Reminder that BND is a state entity, not a Bismarck entity.
- Has faith that officials have not already made up their minds not to locate in Mandan

- Should not be a battle between Bismarck/Mandan
- The chosen bank location will deliver an enormous potential for commercial and industrial growth. She does not believe Bismarck has a critical need like Mandan does in the development area.
- Stated comparison of Mandan competing with Bismarck regarding teacher salaries. Mandan cannot afford to have an unlimited mill levy.
- Encouraged BND to follow the path of their mission statement, as stated in their 2004 Annual report

Kevin Hullet, Bismarck – Mandan Chamber

- Chamber of Commerce recently took a position stating they represent the business community on both sides of the Missouri River and consider Bismarck-Mandan to be “One Community”, and as such, we act in cooperation with community and civic leaders in each community to create public policy that benefits the business community and the community at large.
- For the record, the Chamber recently passed the following statement:
 - “When a state agency of North Dakota evaluates opportunities for relocation or construction of a new facility, the Chamber asks that Bismarck-Mandan be considered as “One community” in such evaluation.”